ITS Technical Bulletin 213
NATURAL UPGRADES

Issued Date: 07 June 1995
Effective Date: 10 June 1995 (Test Mode) 09 July 1995 (Production Mode)
Section/Groups: Database
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New releases of NATURAL, NATURAL VSAM, NATURAL Security, NATURAL Advanced Facilities, and NATURAL Optimizer Compiler will be installed in the development, acceptance test, and training environments on Saturday, June 10, 1995. Listed below are changes and enhancements resulting from this implementation.

CATALL Command

When using the CATALL command in batch, the *USER is now displayed instead of the job name.

LIST Command

When a data area is displayed with the system command LIST, the display is no longer formatted. This improves the performance of the LIST command.

To display a data area in a formatted way, use the FORMATTED option or the FORMAT subcommand.

%QO Terminal Control Command

In a NATURAL session running under CICS in pseudo-conversational mode, you can switch to another CICS transaction by issuing the statement CALL "CMTASK". To enable CICS to start the other transaction, a terminal I/O, i.e., an INPUT statement, is required after the CALL statement.

To suppress the screen output of the input statement (which would be overwritten immediately by the started transaction anyway), issue a SET CONTROL 'QO' statement before the input statement.

Automatic Block Sizing

In batch, new parameters have been added to allow the disk management system to set the optimum block size for work files and print files. This feature enhances performance by creating datasets that are optimally blocked. To take advantage of this feature, either omit the BLKSIZE parameter in your JCL or specify a block size value of "0" when creating work files and/or print files.

Attention Key Interrupt

In the CICS environment, the attention key can now be used to interrupt NATURAL processing. This is especially useful when a program needs to be terminated due to an unexpected looping condition. By pressing the attention key, the NATURAL processing will be interrupted and an error message (NAT1016) will be displayed.

Please contact Database Administration at 538-3235 if you experience problems with this upgrade. If no major problems are detected, the new release of these products will be installed in the production and maintenance environments on July 9, 1995.